

WELCOME ADDRESS BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT G & F
CELEBRATION --- J. Strom Thurmond.

Mr. Chairman, Friends, and Guest^S:

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce of Edgefield, it is a pleasure for me to welcome you on this auspicious occasion- one and all.

It is a special pleasure to welcome the officers and stockholders of the Georgia & Florida Railroad; also we extend a hearty welcome to the Captains of ~~the~~ Industries, enterprises, and banking Institutions, who are here from North and South; and we welcome all other persons who are present at this time. Your presence indicates the interest which you manifest in this new railroad, and that you are possessed of civic pride above the average.

We feel that the inception of the Georgia & Florida railroad through the virgin territory which it now traverses will be mutually advantageous to both the railroad and our town and county, so it is a great pleasure for us to witness the completion of this extension.

Edgefield is justly proud of the service rendered by one of her citizens in the promotion of this extension; and I dare say that he has done as much, ~~or~~ more, than any layman along the entire route to promote, assist and arouse interest in the extension of the Georgia & Florida line. I refer to our distinguished fellow-town^sman, J. H. Cantelou.

The Chamber of Commerce of Edgefield delivers to each of you a master key to our town and county, and also to the hearts of our people. All is yours to see and enjoy on your brief visit, which we wish could be prolonged.

The Chamber of Commerce emphasizes the fact that this is

the propitious place for the people of the North, and ^{the people} of the South
to meet and invest their capital, ^{their} skill, and their good will, in
the development of the resources of our splendid county.

The Savannah River horses, and the Broad River horses are harnessed, and are now pulling to this county volumes of power. All that is necessary to cut large dividend melons is, to utilize this power already here in the operation of industries and enterprises.

We again welcome you, and invite you to locate in our town and county, and share in the golden harvest ready for reapers.